

Kingston Access

Fifteen Year Area Management Plan

FY 2014-2028



Lisa M. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

8-13-14

Date

Kingston Access Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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ST. LOUIS REGION

RCT Chair


Signature

8/25/14
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Unit Chief


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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Kingston Access, # 9114
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1991
- **Acreage:** 58.5 acres
- **County:** Washington
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**
Manage for walk-in access for bank anglers and hunting opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**
The desired future condition of Kingston Access is a forested walk-in access to Mineral Fork.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**
N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Meramec River Hills Priority Forest Landscape and Big River Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Area:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Occurs in the Oak Woodland/Forest Hills Landtype Association (LTA).
This LTA consists of hilly, historically forested landscapes associated with stream valleys outside the principle range of shortleaf pine in the Ozarks (Nigh 2002).
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 1 gravel parking lot
 - 1100 ft (1/5th mile) long footpath
- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed restrictions or ownership considerations:** None
 - B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities

that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: ingress and egress road to adjacent property

D. Cultural resources findings: None

E. Hazards and hazardous materials: None observed.

F. Endangered species: None observed.

G. Boundary Issues: Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Kingston Access contains approximately 50 acres of forest. Forest management will be directed at maintaining a riparian corridor for water quality and fish habitat.

The forest on Kingston Access occurs on two ecological land types (ELTs) and can be described as follows (MDC GIS layer 2012):

- 1) Riverfront Forest
- 2) Mesic Bottomland Forest

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Bottomland forest management.

Management Objective 1: Maintain forested riparian corridor with emphasis on water quality.

Strategy 1: Monitor forest for invasive exotic vegetation, animals, diseases, and insects (Forestry).

Strategy 2: If invasive exotic species are found, develop a strategy to address the specific situation (Forestry).

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Riparian corridor management.
- 2) Stream bank stabilization.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridor on Mineral Fork and associated tributaries.

Strategy 1: Monitor riparian corridor for appropriate width and composition (Fisheries).

Management Objective 2: Maintain streambank stability.

Strategy 1: Monitor streambank conditions and address erosion problems (Fisheries).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide walk-in access to the Mineral Fork.
- 2) Provide hunting and fishing opportunities.
- 3) Build relationships with neighboring land owners.

Management Objective 1: Provide access trail to Mineral Fork.

Strategy 1: Maintain access trail to Mineral Fork (Forestry).

Management Objective 2: Provide hunting opportunities.

Management Objective 3: Build relationships with neighboring land owners.

Strategy 1: Discourage trespass on private property by posting boundary signs and blocking foot paths to private property. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Work with neighbors to minimize boundary, trespass or other issues affecting Kingston Access or private property (Protection).

Strategy 3: Conduct enforcement patrols to ensure the area is safe for public use (Protection).

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Acquisition of land.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance to MDC guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level (1) (Forestry).

Strategy 2: Maintain boundary on a five year schedule (Forestry).

Management Objective 2: Acquisition of land

Strategy 1: When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or

meet other Department priorities as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Administrative Consideration Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 2		X					X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Kingston Access is in Washington County, about seven miles southeast of Richwoods. The Conservation Department acquired this area in 1991 at which time the north boundary of the area followed the centerline of Mineral Fork. Flooding in 1993 changed the course of Mineral Fork resulting in private land on the south side of Mineral Fork.

The 59-acre area, named for Kingston Township, is near Washington State Park and is managed to provide walk-in access to Mineral Fork.

The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Facilities include a parking lot and a foot path to Mineral Fork. Canoes can be carried from the parking lot to Mineral Fork.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Forest	50		85
Gravel bar and stream	9		15
Total	59		100
Stream Frontage		3900	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Kingston Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period January 1 – 31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Kingston Access Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

MDC responses to themes and issues identified through Kingston Access public comment period

Suggests acquiring more land, including more access to Ozark streams near St. Louis.

Section VIII Administrative Considerations addresses acquisition of land. Management Objective 2 Strategy 1 states “When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain

unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities may be considered.”

Suggests allowing swimming at the area.

The purpose of this area is to provide opportunities for walk in anglers to access the Mineral Fork and allow hunting opportunities on the area. Swimming is not authorized on Missouri Department of Conservation areas.

Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code applies to this area and states the following. “The following activities are allowed on department areas only where and as authorized by this chapter or by signs and area brochures or by a special use permit issued by the area manager: **swimming**, sailboarding, sailboating, skateboarding, boating, entry on areas closed to public use, bicycling, camping, shooting, hunting, fishing, trapping, removal of water, commercial use, vending, fires outside of designated camping areas, rock collecting, planting, digging and other soil disturbance, field trials, horseback riding, ranging of horses and other livestock, possession of pets and hunting dogs, caving, rock climbing, rappelling, paint-balling, scuba diving, water skiing, geocaching or letterboxing, the use and possession of vehicles and aircraft, the use of decoys, and the use or construction of blinds and tree stands.”

Swimming opportunities are provided nearby at Washington State Park, which is managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

References:

Nigh, Timothy A. and Walter A. Schroeder. 2002. *Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions*. Missouri Department of Conservation.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft Kingston Access Area Plan Public Comments

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Appendix A. Draft Kingston Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1 – 31, 2014)

Always, when possible, buy more land. Whatever can be put into public use is a great idea.

First don't close off the river to water based recreation, that is swimming ect.

We need more areas like this on Ozark Streams not too far from the St, Louis area. More access to the Meramec, Little Meramec (of which there is none), upper portion of Big River, the Mineral Fork (of which Kingston is the only access). Also the south Fork of the Cuiver River above the Middle Fork is an Ozark type stream and has virtually no access. Ozark streams are an asset for both Missouri's citizens as well as a tourism booster. Lets try to get more access to them rather than more and more access being closed off.

Figure 1. Area Map

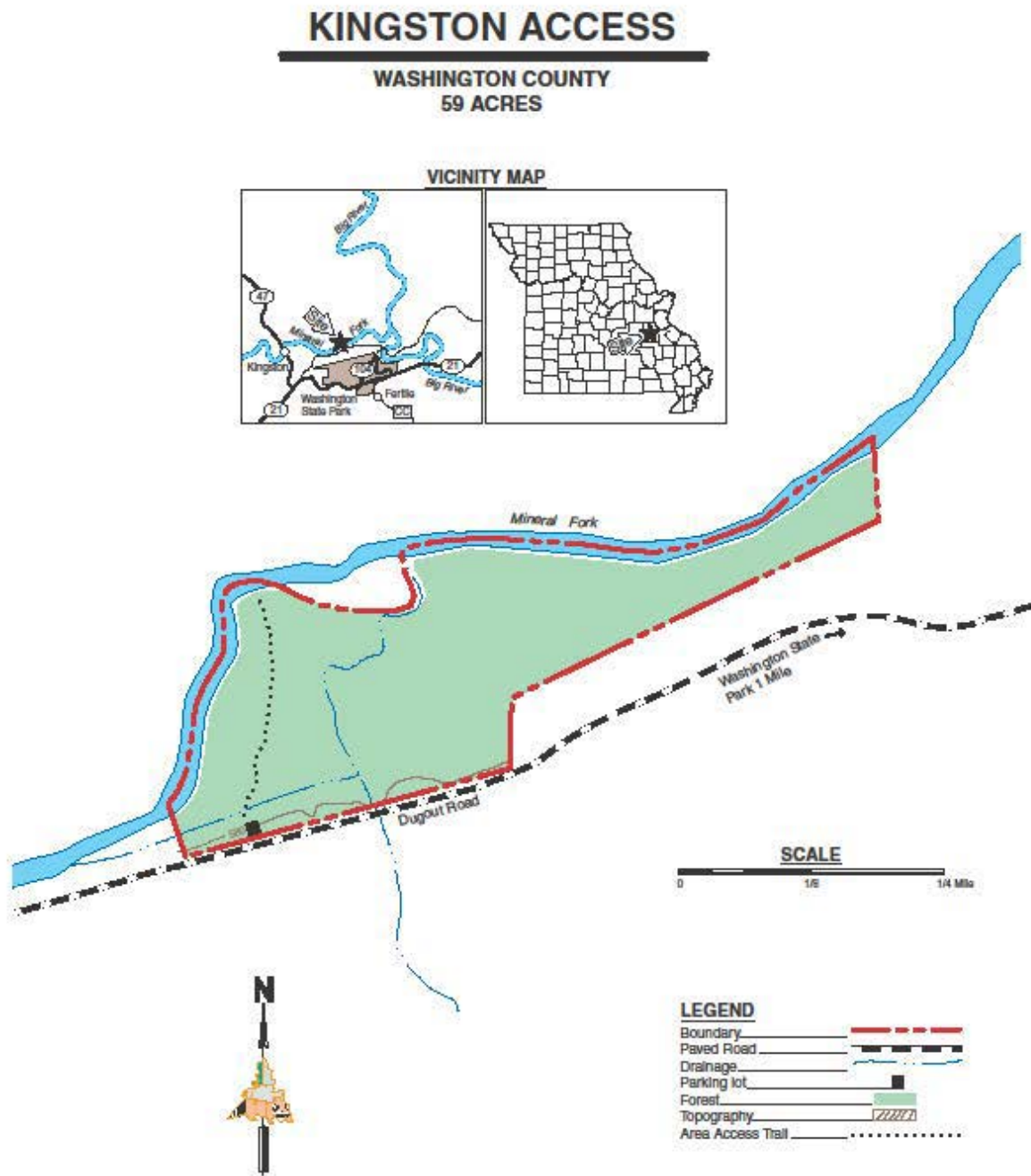


Figure 2: Aerial Map

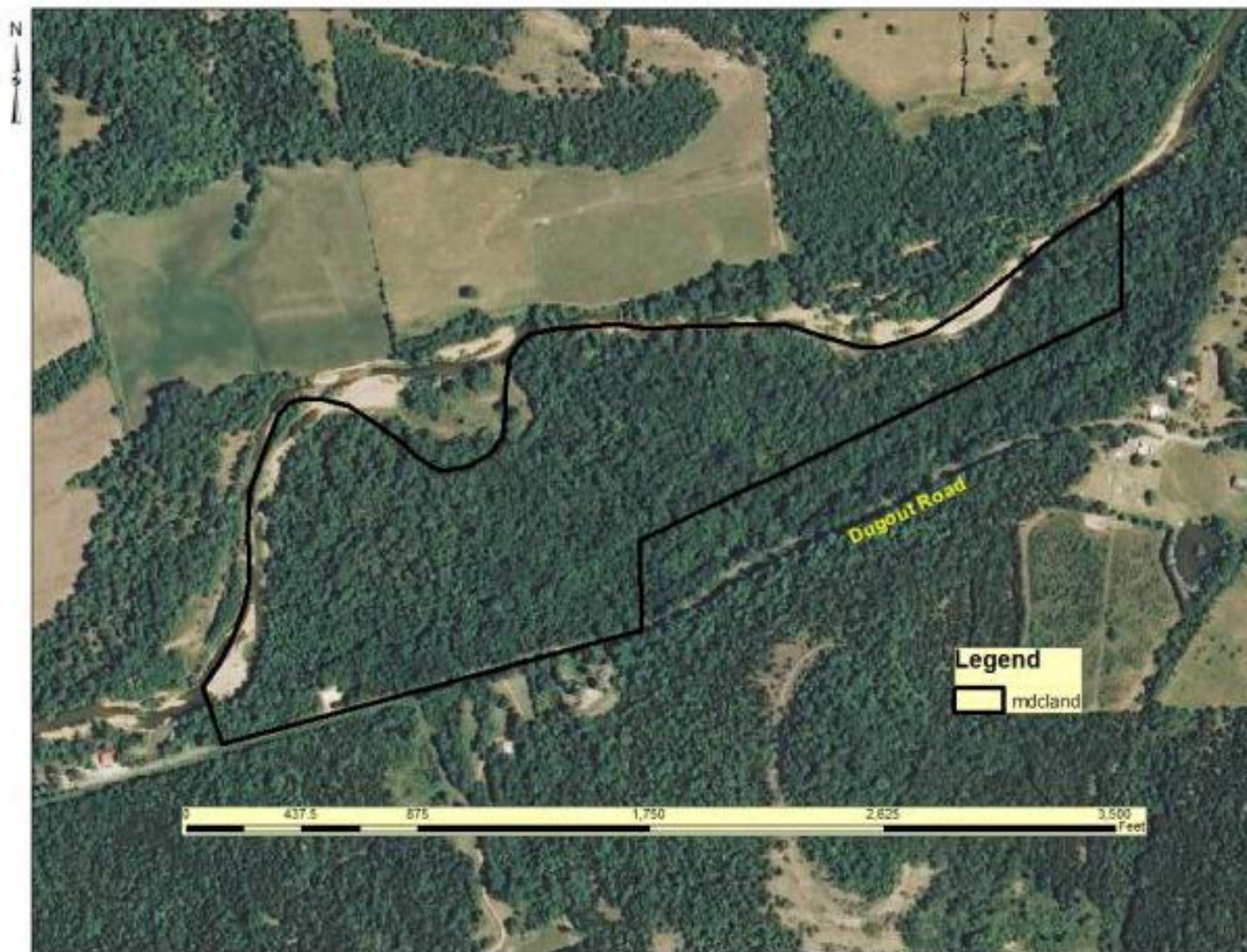


Figure 3: Topographic Map

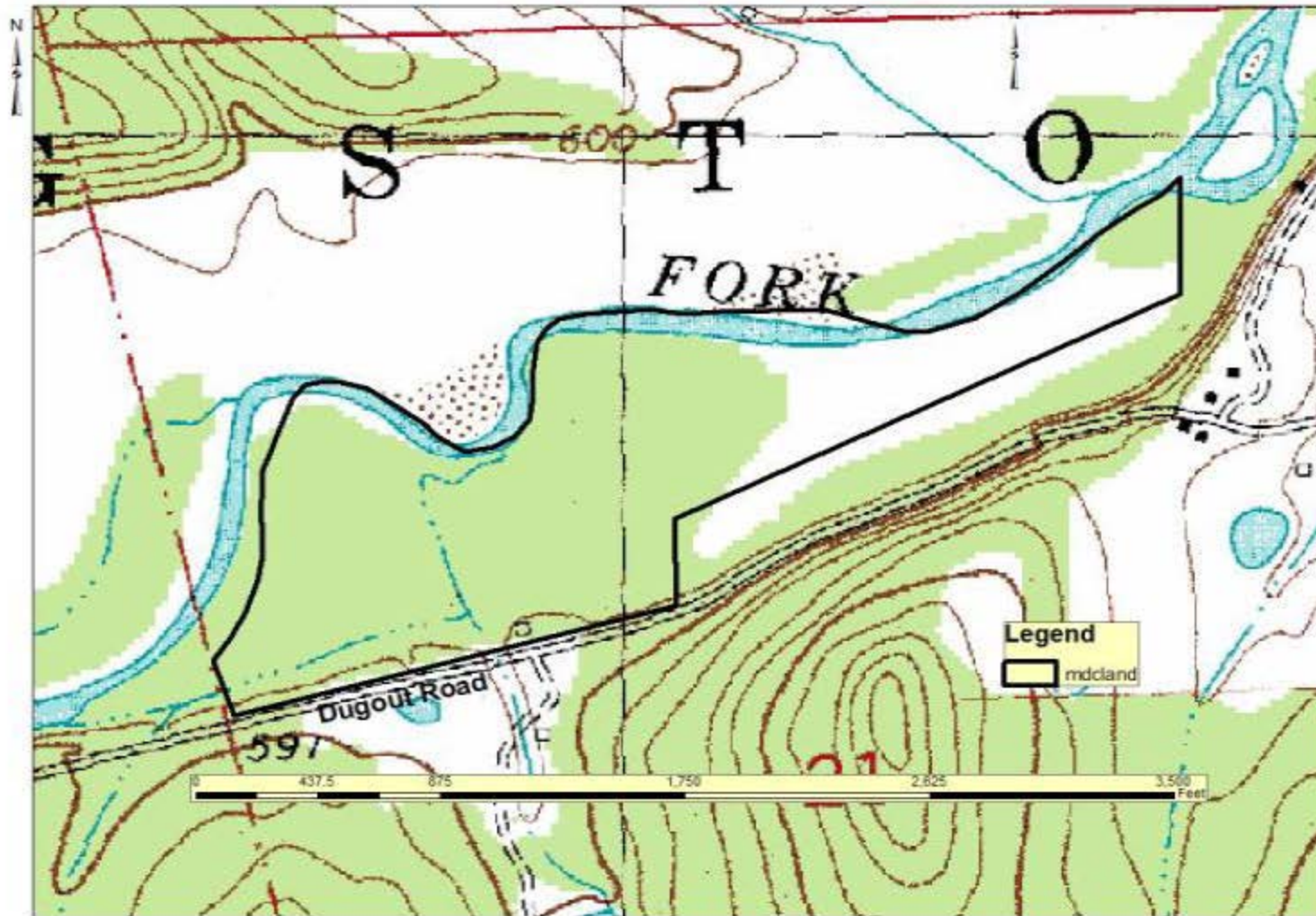


Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

